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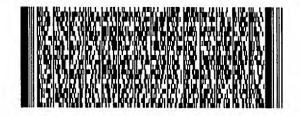
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Ramanath Narayan Bhat 7 Dale Street Billerica, MA 01821

May 23, 2005

Ms. Cam Nguyen
Primary Examiner
United States Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application No. 10/630,409

Dear Ms. Nguyen:

This is with reference to your communication dated May 11, 2005 regarding above application (10/630,409). The communication (PTOL-324: Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)) mentions that the amendment document filed on 16 February 2005 is considered non-compliant. Please note that subsequent to the February 16, 2005 communication to you we have faxed 6 pages (copies of the same attached to this correspondence), which also included the amended claims, which are similar to the ones mentioned in MPEP 714.

Finally, I thank you very much for all your help in this matter.

With Regards,

Sincerely,

(Ramanath Bhat)

0032 We claim:

- 1. (withdrawn): An improved steam reforming catalyst composition comprising:
 - a. Nickel, platinum, palladium, rhodium or combinations thereof;
 - at least two partially reducible metal oxides chosen from the oxides of cerium,
 molybdenum, tungsten, vanadium, tin and chromium;
 - c. zirconium oxide
 - d. lanthanum oxide and
 - e. aluminum oxide

wherein the Group VIII metal comprises nickel, platinum, palladium, rhodium or mixtures thereof.

- 2. (original): An improved steam reforming process for producing a hydrogen-rich gas comprising reacting a sulfur containing hydrocarbon feedstock with steam over the catalysts of claim 1 at a temperature in the range of 600 900 °C wherein the sulfur content of the hydrocarbon feedstock is at least 1 ppm.
 - (original): A steam reforming process according to claim 2 wherein the sulfur-containing hydrocarbon feedstock is natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, naphtha, gasoline, kerosene, jet fuel, diesel, or methane.